

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS "SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS"

How is the Program Conducted?

The Road Commission and your local township work jointly in providing the needed information for citizens to make a logical decision regarding utilizing the special assessment district process for road improvements for their local roads.

Citizens interested in long-term improvements to their roads talk with their neighbors to determine the level of local interest. Road Commission representatives are available to attend neighborhood meetings to discuss residents' concerns. We will advise the residents what improvements are needed to resolve those concerns, as well as requirements of the Road Commission to ensure that the proposed improvements are adequate and long-lasting.

An estimate for the work required for the area desired will be provided for the township and landowners to consider.

If there is sufficient interest, petitions to the township for the project are prepared and at least a minimum of 51% of frontage foot property owners must sign the petition for the project to proceed.

If adequate signatures are received, two public hearings will be held to receive public comment.

Public Hearings

The first public hearing is to verify that there is sufficient interest among landowners to create a viable project based on the early estimate.

If the project is determined to be viable, the second public hearing is scheduled. During this hearing, your township will allocate the cost of the project by lots, square foot frontages or other means that acceptably and equitably distributes the cost among those receiving a benefit from the project.

If approved, an agreement between your township and the Road Commission will be developed that describes the scope of the project and bids will be received to establish the final cost to the project.

Your share may be applied to your tax bill as a lump sum or it may be spread over several years with an interest factor applied to recoup the financing costs. Each township has its own method of recouping the project cost.

How Can I Get My Road Improved?

Volunteer your time to discover the interest level of your neighbors. Contact your township to see if they are in a financial position to share in the improvements. Not all townships have the financial resources to do so, but they are all willing to work with us in establishing the special assessment district. Currently, the Road Commission will participate in up to 25% of the cost. Timing of the project will depend upon the Road Commission's current budget constraints.

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE GTCRC, 1881 LAFRAINER ROAD, TRAVERSE CITY MI 49696

I would like to consider a special assessment district for our subdivision.

Name: _____ Name of Road(s) to be improved: _____
Address: _____ Township: _____
City: _____
Phone No: _____

- I am willing to talk to my neighbors and set up meetings with the Road Commission. You may use me as a contact for this purpose.
- I am willing to circulate a petition to establish the Special Assessment District.

Office Use:
Brochure Sent _____ Mtg #1 By: _____
Twp Notified _____ Date: _____

Mtg #2 By: _____
Date: _____

How is Road Work Funded?

Despite a common misconception, **no property taxes** are used for road work. Funding for all road maintenance and improvements the Road Commission performs comes from state and federal gasoline and weight taxes. Townships may participate in projects or programs or may administrate a special assessment district.

Each time you buy a gallon of gas, 19 cents/gallon is directed to the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) of which six cents/gallon is shared among the 83 county road agencies. This fee does not change with the price of gas or inflation. A portion of license plate registration fees also fund the MTF.

Michigan's transportation user fee, "gas tax," was last increased in 1997 (**over a decade ago**) with 60% of the new funds going to state highways. Local county road funding has not received a significant increase since 1984. Improved fuel efficiency of new cars decreases the gas volume sold and the gas tax collected. Higher fuel costs have reduced the number of gallons sold.

The GTCRC continues to operate on fewer real dollars due to reduced gas tax revenues and annual increases in costs. Our revenues have not kept pace with the amount of maintenance required on our county roads. Petroleum-based products critical to our operation (fuel, lubricants, bituminous patching and paving materials), steel/aluminum prices and health care costs have risen dramatically since 1997. The compounding effect of decreased revenues and increased costs has created hardships for all of Michigan's 83 county road systems.

Interdepartmental grants from our protected MTF funds are being directed to other state agencies in an attempt to balance the State of Michigan's budget.

GTCRC's programs are budgeted according to the best benefit to the public for the dollar available.

***SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT
DISTRICTS***

A Resident's Way
to Get Involved in Improving
Their Neighborhood Roads

*Grand Traverse County Road Commission
1881 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49696
(231) 922-4848*



***"Our mission is to upgrade and maintain
a safe and efficient road system."***

Grand Traverse County Road Commission
1881 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49696